

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Although they disagree with the allegations at the bottom of page 2 of the Action that the prior art teaches the technical features of their invention, Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-8 and 11-16) for examination on the merits. They reserve the right to prosecute nonelected subject matter in a divisional application.

The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter is added by their entry. A limitation of claim 6 is deleted and then incorporated in new claim 12. Support for new claims 13-18 is found at page 8, lines 7-9 and 22-24, and page 9, lines 17-20, of the specification. Otherwise, they do not change the breadth of the claims because the amendments address informalities (e.g., abbreviation, grammar) that standardize the idiom of the claims in American English. By their nature, the amendments clarify the subject matter of the claims and do not limit their original scope.

Under the Commissioner's Notice of March 26, 1996 (1184 OG 86) implementing *In re Ochiai*, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (1995) and *In re Brouwer*, 37 USPQ2d 1663 (1996), Applicants request rejoinder of nonelected method claims upon an indication that an elected product claim is allowable.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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